



ShopTalk

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Fluorescent Lamp Recycling: "The right thing to do!"

Discarded fluorescent lamps contribute over 500 pounds of elemental mercury to Washington's environment each year. Studies in other states show that mercury tends to concentrate at waste transfer stations and landfills, and will vaporize over time. Much of this mercury comes from broken lamps.

Mercury is highly toxic, especially to the human nervous system. Mercury does not break down in the environment and it tends to accumulate as it moves up the food chain. It most often affects people through eating fish contaminated by mercury.

Lamps that may be dangerous waste because of mercury include fluorescent (including compacts), mercury vapor, metal halide, high pressure sodium, and neon lamps. Low mercury content lamps may not be dangerous waste, but if they are not properly recycled they can contribute an additional load of mercury to the environment.

Over two years ago, Ecology adopted a "Universal Waste Rule" for fluorescent lamps. The rule allows streamlined management of dangerous waste lamps. It places less stringent requirements on waste lamps to make recycling a more attractive option and help keep lamps out of landfills. Universal wastes can be accumulated on-site for up to one year and they do not have to be manifested like other

dangerous waste. Lamps cannot be crushed however — they must be kept intact during storage and shipping.

If mercury is toxic, should fluorescent lamps still be used? YES! Fluorescent tubes use one-fourth the energy used by incandescent light bulbs and can last ten times longer. The same is true for compact fluorescent lamps. By conserving energy, we can reduce mercury emissions from power plants that burn fossil fuels.

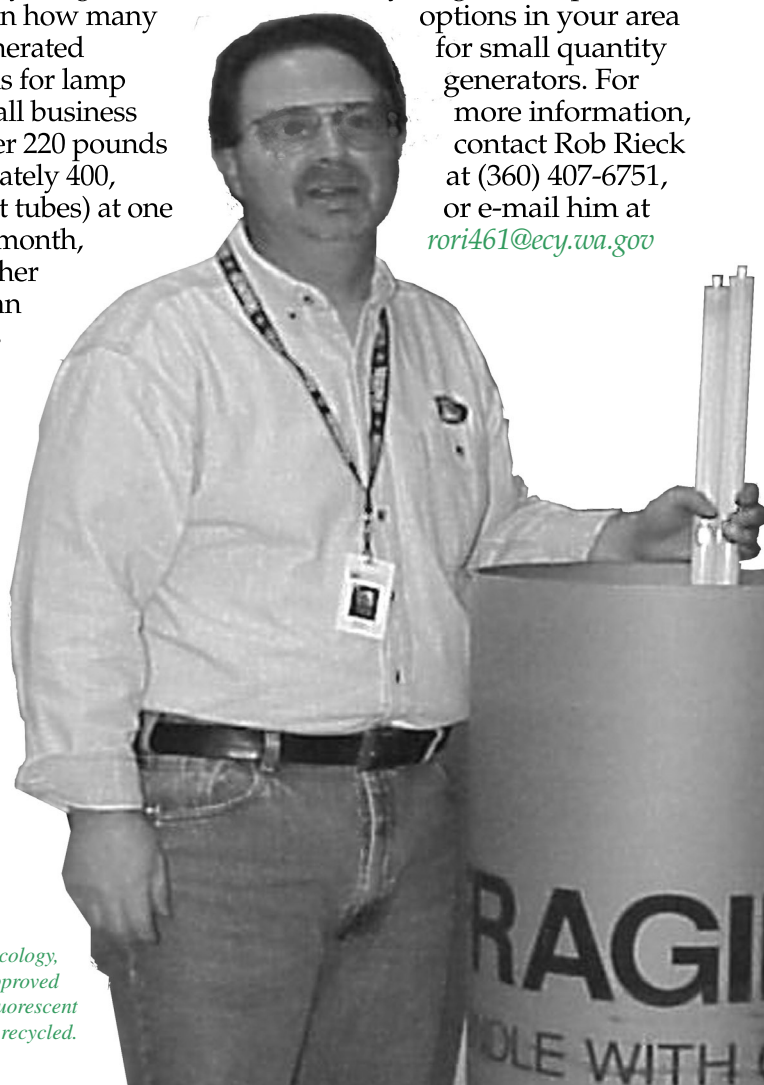
How does the Universal Waste rule affect how your business manages lamps and your generator status? It depends on how many waste lamps are generated and local regulations for lamp management. A small business that generates under 220 pounds of lamps (approximately 400, four-foot fluorescent tubes) at one time or during one month, **and** generates no other dangerous waste, can handle the lamps as universal waste or as small quantity generator dangerous waste.

Local solid waste regulations will determine whether lamps from small quantity generators may be sent to the solid waste landfill or incinerator.

A business generating over 220

pounds of lamps can manage lamps as either universal waste or as fully regulated dangerous waste. If the business chooses to handle lamps as universal waste, they do not have to be counted as regular dangerous waste toward determining generator status. This means that a small business generating a large number of lamps (causing them to exceed the small quantity generator limit) will find it an advantage to manage their lamps as universal waste to avoid full regulation.

Your local solid or hazardous waste program staff can explain recycling and disposal options in your area for small quantity generators. For more information, contact Rob Rieck at (360) 407-6751, or e-mail him at rori461@ecy.wa.gov



At the Department of Ecology, Steve Strobe shows an approved method of storing fluorescent lamps until they are recycled.

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Tier Two Reports Due March 1

Businesses that store hazardous chemicals must report annually to state and local governments under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Section 312. In January 2003 the Community Right-to-Know Unit sent notices to previous reporters reminding them that reports for calendar year 2002 are due **March 1, 2003**. (Note: Since March 1 is a Saturday, Ecology will consider reports postmarked by March 1.)

Chemicals or hazardous substances such as gasoline and diesel are reportable if 10,000 pounds or more are on site at one time. Chemicals such as ammonia and chlorine are classified as Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHS) and are reportable at much lower thresholds – ammonia at 500 pounds and chlorine at 100 pounds. The reporting requirements apply to the maximum amount of a chemical on site **at any one time** during the previous calendar year.

EPCRAMail, Ecology's electronic reporting application, is a convenient way to report. It is available in three different versions to accommodate users' software requirements. You can download EPCRAMail from the Community Right to Know Web site at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/epcra>. This may be especially useful for businesses with multiple sites.

Reporting requirements, instructional packets, forms and Local Emergency Planning Committee contact information can also be found at the Web site. For technical assistance with SARA Title III or Emergency Planning & Community Right-to-Know, call 1-800-633-7585 or (360) 407-6893.

Dangerous Waste Annual Reports Due March 3

Dangerous Waste Annual Reports are due to Ecology by March 3, 2003. Any site having an active EPA ID number must submit a 2002 Annual Report. Even if you did not generate or manage any dangerous waste during 2002 you must at least complete the Verification Form (VF).

Ecology sent out report packets in December 2002. If your site was active and you have not received your packet, call Ecology at 1-800-874-2022 (within state) or (360) 407-6170. (Use these numbers also for any of the following information if you do not have Internet access.)

Be sure to read the information included with your 2002 Annual Dangerous Waste Report.

- ✓ (NAICS) Classification System Code – 127 new codes have been added to Annual Report Book 2. For detailed information visit the U.S. Census Bureau Web site at: www.census.gov/epcd/naics02/, or call the NAICS hotline at: 1-888-75-NAICS.
- ✓ To find "Most Commonly Asked Annual Reporting Questions" – see the Ecology Web site at: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/waste-report/pages/FAQs_for_AR.html
- ✓ You can now e-mail Ecology with your questions about annual reporting. Send to: annualreportquestions@ecy.wa.gov
- ✓ There is a new e-mail address for TurboWaste electronic files. Send files to Ecology at: annualreportfiling@ecy.wa.gov
- ✓ The TurboWaste software was not changed. Version 2.3 remains the current version. Instructions for TurboWaste can be downloaded at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/waste-report/turbo/index.html>

Ecology is planning changes to the next dangerous waste annual reporting cycle (2003 data to be submitted in 2004). These include:

- Options for on-line reporting of all the forms (including the VF).
- Changed Source, Form and System Codes.
- Additional questions to the VF to clarify waste activities.

These changes will make the forms consistent with federal reporting standards, improve data quality, and help reduce reporting burdens. Look for additional information on Ecology's Web site at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr>

Recycling Association Seeks Winners

The Washington State Recycling Association is seeking nominations for outstanding recycling professionals, innovative government administrators and everyday folks making a measurable difference to improve economic vitality and environmental well-being statewide. Awards include: Recyclers of the Year for Individual, Business Primary, Business Generator, Public Agency, Institution, Recycling Innovation, and Outstanding Public Education. Nominations are due by March 15, 2003. The Association will present the awards at its annual banquet May 6, 2003, in Spokane. Detailed criteria for the award categories and nomination forms are available on the WSRA Web site at <http://www.wsra.net> or by calling (206) 244-0311.



**Washington State
Recycling Association**

2002 Governor's Award Winner: Columbia River Carbonates

Columbia River Carbonates annually processes 180,000 tons of mineral limestone at their Woodland facility into ultra-fine ground calcium carbonate products. In 1998, the company began developing an innovative wastewater treatment system that recycles treated waste water for use in its production process and for washing down the plant. Before, the company treated and discharged more than 14 million gallons of process water to the Columbia River each year. It now discharges **no** process water, even though their production **increased** by nearly 50 percent during the conversion.

Many in their industry said it would be difficult, if not impossible, to eliminate process water - but Columbia River Carbonates found a way. The company invested heavily, and employees spent many months working through the technical difficulties and creating an innovative plantwide system that, among other features, uses centrifugal force to clean process water.

Since the conversion, Columbia River Carbonates:

- ❖ Uses less than 10 million gallons of water each year (down from 23 million gallons);
- ❖ Generates 4,000 to 5,000 tons of solid waste byproduct (down from 12,000 to 10,000 tons), which is sold as registered waste-derived agricultural lime; and
- ❖ Avoids double handling of the material, thousands of gallons of treatment chemicals, and the need for settling lagoons (except for one small concrete lagoon).



L to R: Allen Blakley, Gene Kohout, Governor Locke, Reed Sherar

The company turned the largest lagoon into a natural storm water retention and treatment facility. It keeps its storm water runoff as clean and clear as possible with oil-water separators and catch basin filters.

Power Manage Your Monitor

Save energy, and dollars, with free tools from the U.S. EPA's ENERGY STAR program. You can set your entire organization's computer monitors to go into a low-power "sleep" mode when inactive, saving as much as 200 kilowatt-hours each year per monitor.

- Free EZ *Save* software can activate monitor power management across networked computers all at once. Go to: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/estar/consumers.nsf/content/powersoftware.htm>
- Free Web-based EZ *Wizard* software is ideal for non-networked computers allowing individual users to activate monitor power management in seconds. Go to: http://www.energy.star.gov/index.cfm?c=power_mgt.pr_power_management
- For consultation on the Windows 2000 or Windows XP functions to enable monitor power management throughout your organization. Go to: <http://www.energystar.gov/powermanagement/Windows2k.asp?orgtype>

Governor's Award 2003 — Apply April 1

Have you and your company, organization or government facility been working this year to reduce the use of toxics, prevent waste, or move to more sustainable practices? If so, you could win the 2003 Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Practices.

This prestigious award recognizes achievements in pollution prevention. Pollution prevention is reducing hazardous emissions or wastes at the source, instead of at the end of a process. The award also recognizes the use of sustainable practices — practices that promote the vitality of the environment, the economy, and the community.

What actions are eligible? Any of the following:

- ✓ Reducing the use of toxic materials
- ✓ Reducing the generation of solid and/or hazardous waste at the source (not recycling)
- ✓ Reducing emissions to air or water
- ✓ Product stewardship
- ✓ Eliminating persistent, bioaccumulative toxins (PBTs)
- ✓ Increasing the use of renewable and recycled materials
- ✓ Reducing energy use of using renewable energy sources
- ✓ Reducing water use

The application period opens April 1. The deadline to submit applications is June 6, 2003. A panel of judges will select the winners. The awards will be presented at a ceremony in October 2003 in Olympia.

You can find more information, and an on-line application form, at: www.ecy.wa.gov/sustainability Or call Mariann Cook Andrews at (360) 407-6740; e-mail: maco461@ecy.wa.gov

Counting Dangerous Wastes

Q What does "counting" dangerous waste mean?

A "Counting" refers to calculating the total weight of dangerous waste generated during a calendar month, to determine generator compliance status.

Q Why must this be done?

A The total weight of dangerous waste will determine whether a business is a small, medium, or large quantity generator. This in turn determines the actions that a business must take to comply with local, state and federal requirements.

Q What about waste that is recycled or treated? Must that be counted? How about wastes that can go to a sewage treatment plant?

A For the answers to these and other questions, check out the newly revised publication *Counting Dangerous Waste Under the Dangerous Waste Regulations*, publication #98-414. It is available on the Ecology web site at: <http://www.wa.gov/biblio/98414.html> Or contact Ecology's Publication Distribution Center at (360) 407-7472.

Department of Ecology

Remember, your business is liable for all hazardous wastes generated. If you are uncertain about your responsibilities as a hazardous waste generator, call your nearest Ecology office and ask for a hazardous waste specialist. For information on reducing or recycling hazardous waste, ask for the toxics reduction staff, also at the following numbers:

Bellevue	(425) 649-7000
Lacey	(360) 407-6300
Yakima	(509) 575-2490
Spokane	(509) 329-3400

The Department of Ecology is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action employer and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, age, religion or disability as defined by applicable state and/or federal regulations or statutes. If you have special accommodation needs please contact the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program at (360) 407-6700 (Voice) or 711 or (800) 833-6388 (TTY).

Shoptalk

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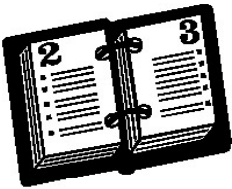
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Visit Shoptalk online

at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/shoptalkonline>

March is just around the corner. Do you have a Tier Two Report due? Do you have a Dangerous Waste Annual Report due? Look inside to get more information.



Don't miss a deadline!

Shoptalk is printed on an alcohol-free press using vegetable-based inks. The paper is made with only post-consumer waste, processed chlorine-free, and manufactured with environmentally sound dyes.

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